MARVEL
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THE NEW MUTANTS™
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JAN

STAN LEE PRESENTS

Shadowmen

by CHRIS CLAREMONT, writer & BILL SIENKIEWICZ, artist
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer • GLYNIS WEIN, colorist
ANN NOCENTI, editor • JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief

" MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT OUR NEWEST CANDIDATES FOR ADMISSION INTO OUR SACRED INNER CIRCLE:
"... EMMANUEL DaCOSTA...
"...AND A POTENTIAL BLACK QUEEN, THE LADY SELENE!"

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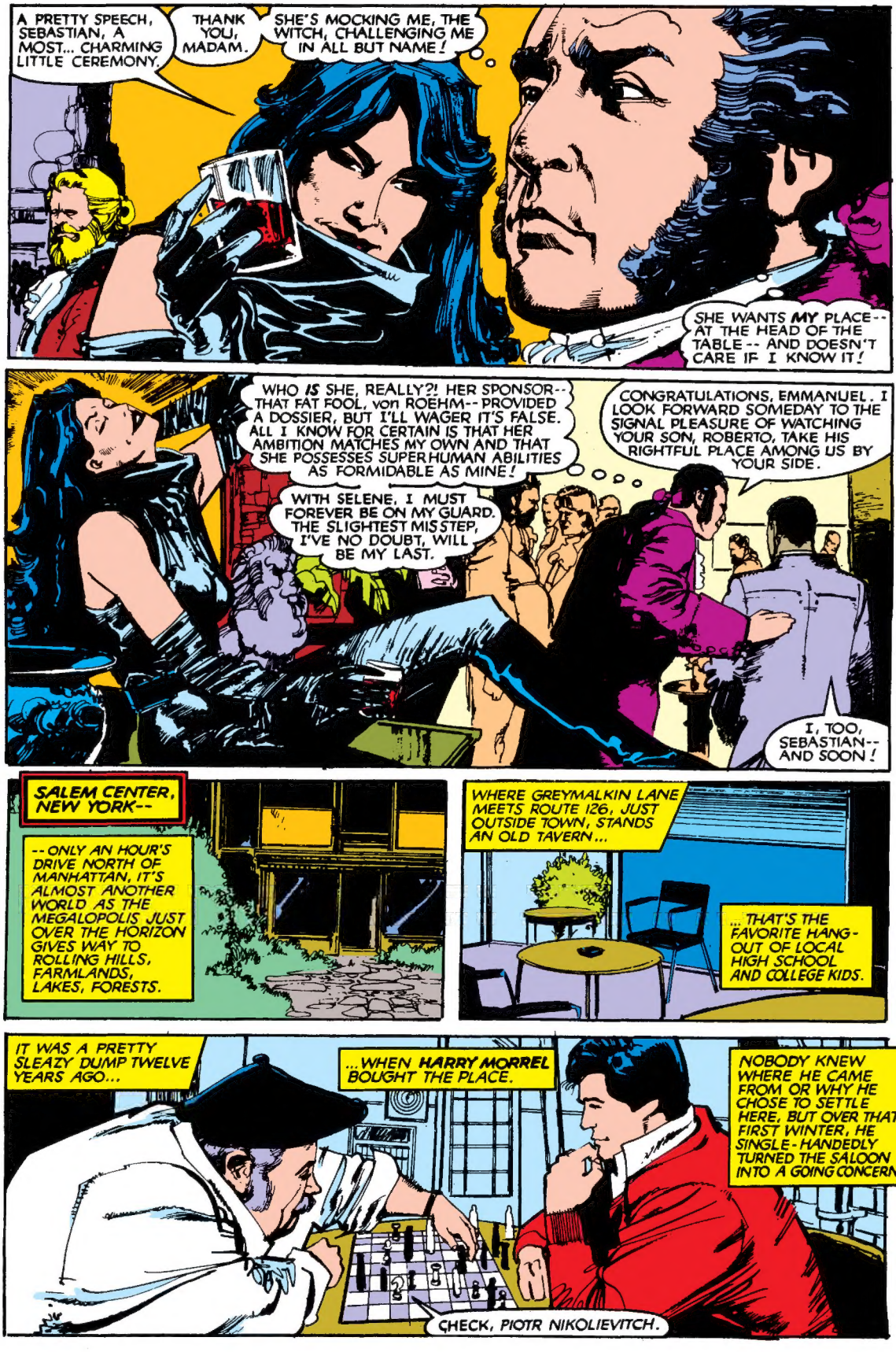
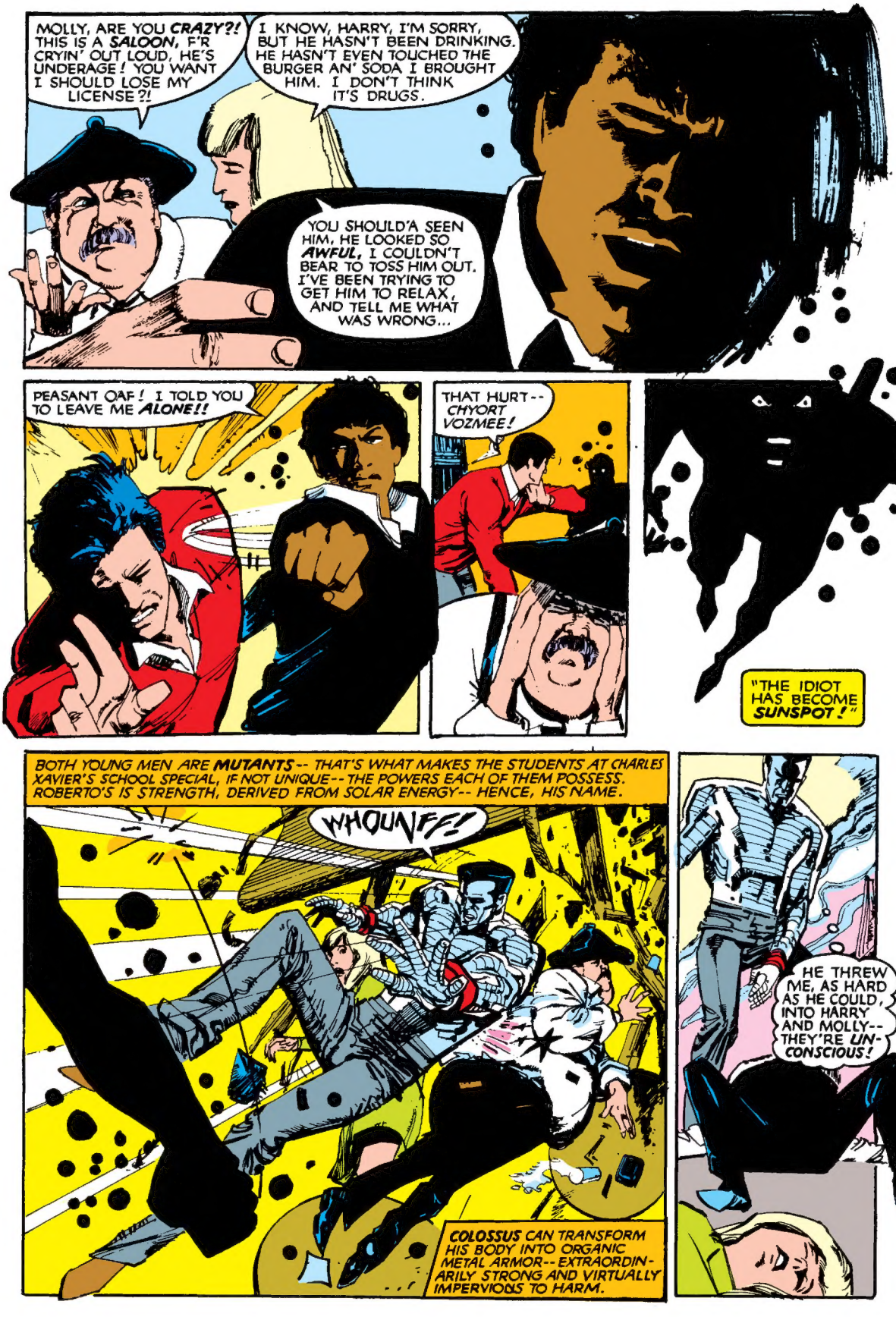
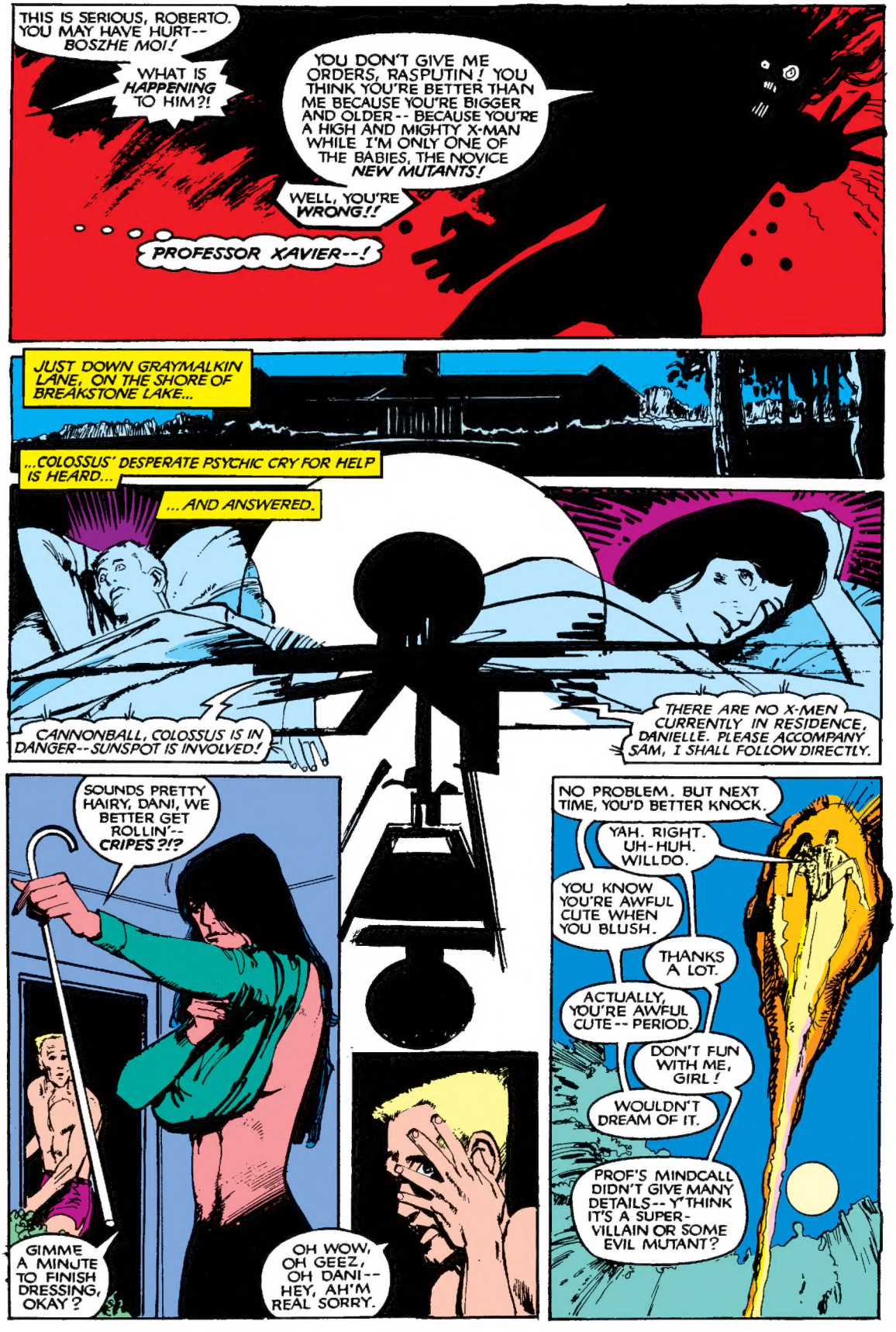
LIKE US, THEY HAVE NO LIKING FOR THE MODERN WORLD, NOR FOR OUR PLACE IN IT.
WE WERE BORN TO RULE -- OUR POWER AND WEALTH ARE ELOQUENT TESTIMONY TO OUR FITNESS IN THAT REGARD --
-- AND, THROUGH THE INNER CIRCLE, WE SHALL!
AS CHAIRMAN OF BOTH CLUB AND CIRCLE, I, SEBASTIAN SHAW, OFFER THE CUP OF FELLOWSHIP!
TO DRINK FROM IT FORGES BONDS -- BOTH MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL -- THAT CAN NEVER BE BROKEN.
IT IS DONE!
BID THEM WELCOME, BRETHREN! MAY THEY PROSPER IN OUR COMPANY...
... AS WE SHALL NO DOUBT DO IN THEIRS!

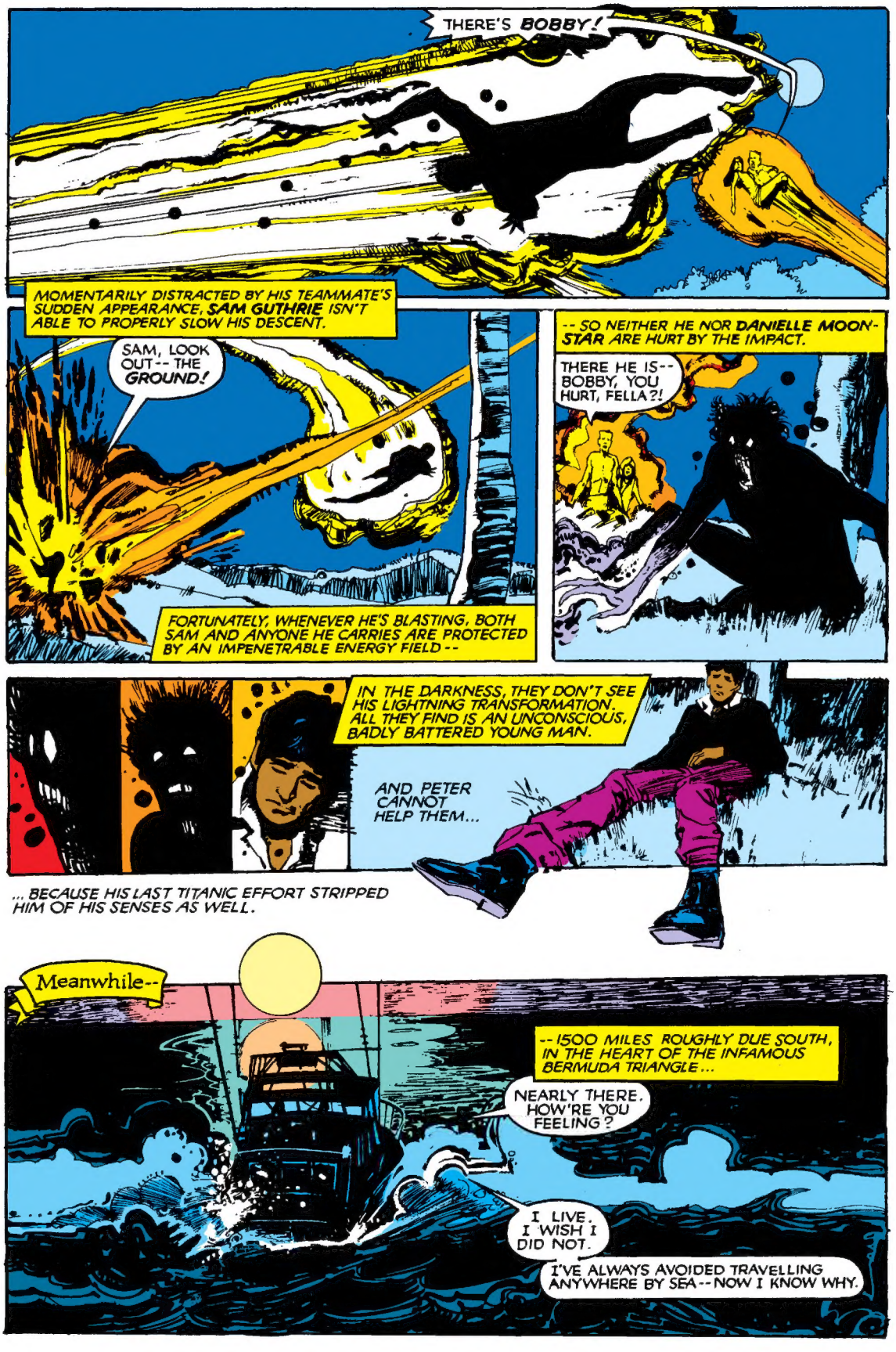

A PRETTY SPEECH, SEBASTIAN, A MOST... CHARMING LITTLE CEREMONY.
THANK YOU, MADAM.
SHE'S MOCKING ME, THE WITCH, CHALLENGING ME IN ALL BUT NAME!
SHE WANTS MY PLACE-- AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE-- AND DOESN'T CARE IF I KNOW IT!
WHO IS SHE, REALLY?! HER SPONSOR-- THAT FAT FOOL, von ROEHM-- PROVIDED A DOSSIER, BUT I'LL WAGER IT'S FALSE. ALL I KNOW FOR CERTAIN IS THAT HER AMBITION MATCHES MY OWN AND THAT SHE POSSESSES SUPERHUMAN ABILITIES AS FORMIDABLE AS MINE!
WITH SELENE, I MUST FOREVER BE ON MY GUARD. THE SLIGHTEST MISSTEP, I'VE NO DOUBT, WILL BE MY LAST.
CONGRATULATIONS, EMMANUEL. I LOOK FORWARD SOMEDAY TO THE SIGNAL PLEASURE OF WATCHING YOUR SON, ROBERTO, TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG US BY YOUR SIDE.
I, TOO, SEBASTIAN-- AND SOON!
SALEM CENTER, NEW YORK--
--ONLY AN HOUR'S DRIVE NORTH OF MANHATTAN, IT'S ALMOST ANOTHER WORLD AS THE MEGALOPOLIS JUST OVER THE HORIZON GIVES WAY TO ROLLING HILLS, FARMLANDS, LAKES, FORESTS.
WHERE GREYMALKIN LANE MEETS ROUTE 126, JUST OUTSIDE TOWN, STANDS AN OLD TAVERN...
...THAT'S THE FAVORITE HANG-OUT OF LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE KIDS.
IT WAS A PRETTY SLEAZY DUMP TWELVE YEARS AGO...
...WHEN HARRY MORREL BOUGHT THE PLACE.
NOBODY KNEW WHERE HE CAME FROM OR WHY HE CHOSE TO SETTLE HERE, BUT OVER THAT FIRST WINTER, HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY TURNED THE SALOON INTO A GOING CONCERN.
CHECK, PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH.

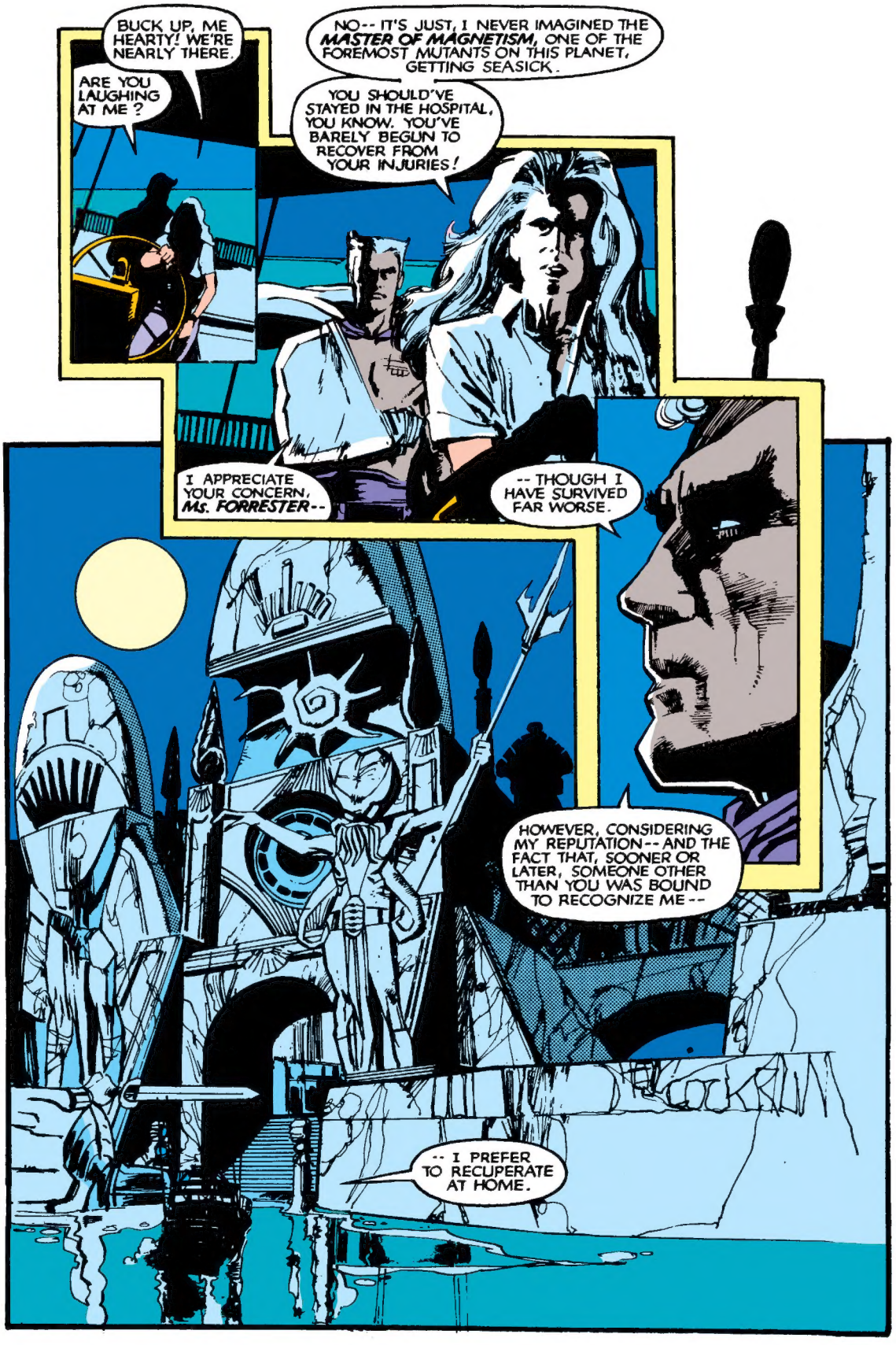
WHY DO I HAVE THE FEELING, HARRY, THAT YOU SPEAK MY NATIVE LANGUAGE BETTER THAN I?
WE BEEN PLAYIN'-- AN' YOU BEEN LOSIN'-- SO LONG, TOVARISCH, STANDS T' REASON I'D PICK UP THE OCCASIONAL WORD OR PHRASE.
WANNA HEAR ME SWEAR IN YIDDISH?!
CHECKMATE, HARRY.
OY VEY IS MIER!?!
RASPUTIN, YOU SLY DOG--! SET UP THE BOARD, I WANT A REMATCH!
HARRY?
YAH, MOLLY, WHAT'S UP?
WE MAYBE GOT A PROBLEM IN THE NEXT ROOM. I WAS KIND'A HOPING PETER COULD HELP OUT.
I WILL BE GLAD TO, MOLLY, BUT WHY ME?
IT'S ONE OF YOUR CLASSMATES FROM XAVIER'S, PETER-- BOBBY DaCOSTA!
HE CAME IN A COUPLE HOURS AGO. HE WON'T TALK OR ANY-THING, HE JUST SITS THERE!
WE'RE CLOSING FOR THE NIGHT. I FIGURED YOU'D MAKE SURE HE GETS BACK TO THE SCHOOL SAFE 'N' SOUND.
ROBERTO, IT'S PETER RASPUTIN.
G'WAY. LEAVE ME ALONE!

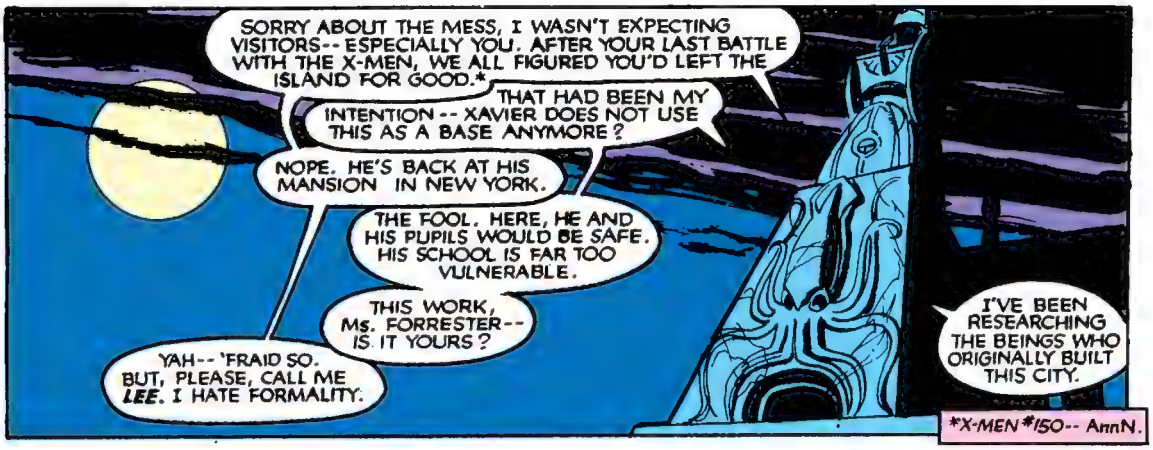

MOLLY, ARE YOU CRAZY?! THIS IS A SALOON, F'R CRYIN' OUT LOUD, HE'S UNDERAGE! YOU WANT I SHOULD LOSE MY LICENSE?!
I KNOW, HARRY, I'M SORRY, BUT HE HASN'T BEEN DRINKING. HE HASN'T EVEN TOUCHED THE BURGER AN' SODA I BROUGHT HIM. I DON'T THINK IT'S DRUGS.
YOU SHOULD'A SEEN HIM, HE LOOKED SO AWFUL, I COULDN'T BEAR TO TOSS HIM OUT. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HIM TO RELAX, AND TELL ME WHAT WAS WRONG...
PEASANT OAF! I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!!
THAT HURT-- CHYORT VOZMEE!
"THE IDIOT HAS BECOME SUNSPOT!"
BOTH YOUNG MEN ARE MUTANTS-- THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE STUDENTS AT CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL SPECIAL, IF NOT UNIQUE-- THE POWERS EACH OF THEM POSSESS. ROBERTO'S IS STRENGTH, DERIVED FROM SOLAR ENERGY-- HENCE, HIS NAME.
WHOUNFF!
COLOSSUS CAN TRANSFORM HIS BODY INTO ORGANIC METAL ARMOR-- EXTRAORDINARILY STRONG AND VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO HARM.
HE THREW ME, AS HARD AS HE COULD, INTO HARRY AND MOLLY-- THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUS!


THIS IS SERIOUS, ROBERTO. YOU MAY HAVE HURT-- BOSZHE MOI!
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM?!
YOU DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS, RASPUTIN! YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME BECAUSE YOU'RE BIGGER AND OLDER -- BECAUSE YOU'RE A HIGH AND MIGHTY X-MAN WHILE I'M ONLY ONE OF THE BABIES, THE NOVICE NEW MUTANTS!
WELL, YOU'RE WRONG!!
PROFESSOR XAVIER--!
JUST DOWN GRAYMALKIN LANE, ON THE SHORE OF BREAKSTONE LAKE...
...COLOSSUS' DESPERATE PSYCHIC CRY FOR HELP IS HEARD...
...AND ANSWERED.
CANNONBALL, COLOSSUS IS IN DANGER--SUNSPOT IS INVOLVED!
THERE ARE NO X-MEN CURRENTLY IN RESIDENCE, DANIELLE. PLEASE ACCOMPANY SAM, I SHALL FOLLOW DIRECTLY.
SOUNDS PRETTY HAIRY, DANI, WE BETTER GET ROLLIN'-- CRIPES?!?
GIMME A MINUTE TO FINISH DRESSING, OKAY?
OH WOW, OH GEEZ, OH DANI-- HEY, AH'M REAL SORRY.
NO PROBLEM. BUT NEXT TIME, YOU'D BETTER KNOCK.
YAH. RIGHT. UH-HUH. WILLDO.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE AWFUL CUTE WHEN YOU BLUSH.
THANKS A LOT.
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE AWFUL CUTE -- PERIOD.
DON'T FUN WITH ME, GIRL!
WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.
PROF'S MINDCALL DIDN'T GIVE MANY DETAILS -- Y'THINK IT'S A SUPER-VILLAIN OR SOME EVIL MUTANT?

"WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH."
THE BOY IS WRECKING THE RESTAURANT. HE IS NOT BEING MALICIOUS-- I DOUBT HE'S EVEN FULLY AWARE OF WHAT HE IS DOING--
--HE SEEMS TO BE IN AGONY.
AND HIS ONLY MEANS OF COPING WITH THAT PAIN IS VIOLENCE. IT IS A BERSERKER MADNESS.
STOP RUNNING, COWARD! STAND AND FIGHT--
--OR I'LL BRING THIS BUILDING DOWN ABOUT YOUR TIN EARS!
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT. I MUST TRY TO RESTRAIN HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO HIT SUNSPOT. FOR ALL HIS POWER, HE'S AS VULNERABLE AS ANY HUMAN.
A BLOW OF MINE COULD KILL-- LENIN'S GHOST?!?
HE IS NOT SOLID-- MY BODY IS BEING ABSORBED BY HIS, HOW CAN THAT BE?!!
THIS MUST BE WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY, DURING OUR WORKOUT! * UNEARTHLY... COLD-- NUMBING ME-- GETTING HARD TO THINK... MOVE-- DRAINING STRENGTH... LIFE...!
*LAST ISSUE-- ANN.
MONSTER-- YOU WILL NOT CLAIM ME!!
POW!


THERE'S BOBBY!
MOMENTARILY DISTRACTED BY HIS TEAMMATE'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE, SAM GUTHRIE ISN'T ABLE TO PROPERLY SLOW HIS DESCENT.
SAM, LOOK OUT -- THE GROUND!
FORTUNATELY, WHENEVER HE'S BLASTING, BOTH SAM AND ANYONE HE CARRIES ARE PROTECTED BY AN IMPENETRABLE ENERGY FIELD --
-- SO NEITHER HE NOR DANIELLE MOONSTAR ARE HURT BY THE IMPACT.
THERE HE IS -- BOBBY, YOU HURT, FELLA?!
IN THE DARKNESS, THEY DON'T SEE HIS LIGHTNING TRANSFORMATION. ALL THEY FIND IS AN UNCONSCIOUS, BADLY BATTERED YOUNG MAN.
AND PETER CANNOT HELP THEM...
... BECAUSE HIS LAST TITANIC EFFORT STRIPPED HIM OF HIS SENSES AS WELL.
Meanwhile--
-- 1500 MILES ROUGHLY DUE SOUTH, IN THE HEART OF THE INFAMOUS BERMUDA TRIANGLE...
NEARLY THERE. HOW'RE YOU FEELING?
I LIVE. I WISH I DID NOT.
I'VE ALWAYS AVOIDED TRAVELLING ANYWHERE BY SEA -- NOW I KNOW WHY.


BUCK UP, ME HEARTY! WE'RE NEARLY THERE.
ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME ?
NO-- IT'S JUST, I NEVER IMAGINED THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM, ONE OF THE FOREMOST MUTANTS ON THIS PLANET, GETTING SEASICK.
YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED IN THE HOSPITAL, YOU KNOW. YOU'VE BARELY BEGUN TO RECOVER FROM YOUR INJURIES!
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, Ms. FORRESTER--
-- THOUGH I HAVE SURVIVED FAR WORSE.
HOWEVER, CONSIDERING MY REPUTATION-- AND THE FACT THAT, SOONER OR LATER, SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOU WAS BOUND TO RECOGNIZE ME--
-- I PREFER TO RECUPERATE AT HOME.

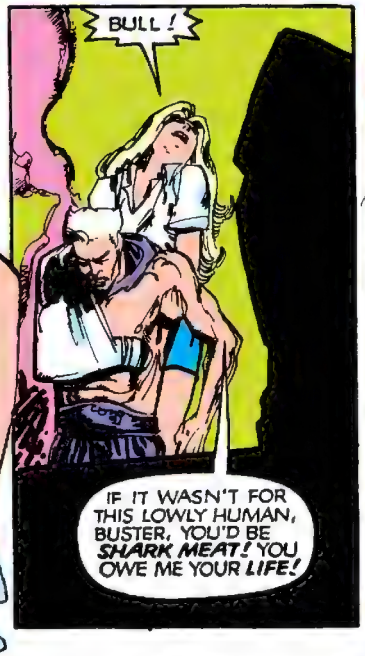

SORRY ABOUT THE MESS, I WASN'T EXPECTING VISITORS-- ESPECIALLY YOU. AFTER YOUR LAST BATTLE WITH THE X-MEN, WE ALL FIGURED YOU'D LEFT THE ISLAND FOR GOOD.*
THAT HAD BEEN MY INTENTION -- XAVIER DOES NOT USE THIS AS A BASE ANYMORE?
NOPE. HE'S BACK AT HIS MANSION IN NEW YORK.
THE FOOL. HERE, HE AND HIS PUPILS WOULD BE SAFE. HIS SCHOOL IS FAR TOO VULNERABLE.
THIS WORK, Ms. FORRESTER-- IS IT YOURS?
YAH-- 'FRAID SO. BUT, PLEASE, CALL ME LEE. I HATE FORMALITY.
I'VE BEEN RESEARCHING THE BEINGS WHO ORIGINALLY BUILT THIS CITY.
*X-MEN #150-- AnnN.

CRAZY AS IT SOUNDS, I'M COMING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE INHABITANTS HERE...
...WEREN'T PEOPLE-- LIKE US, I MEAN-- AT ALL.

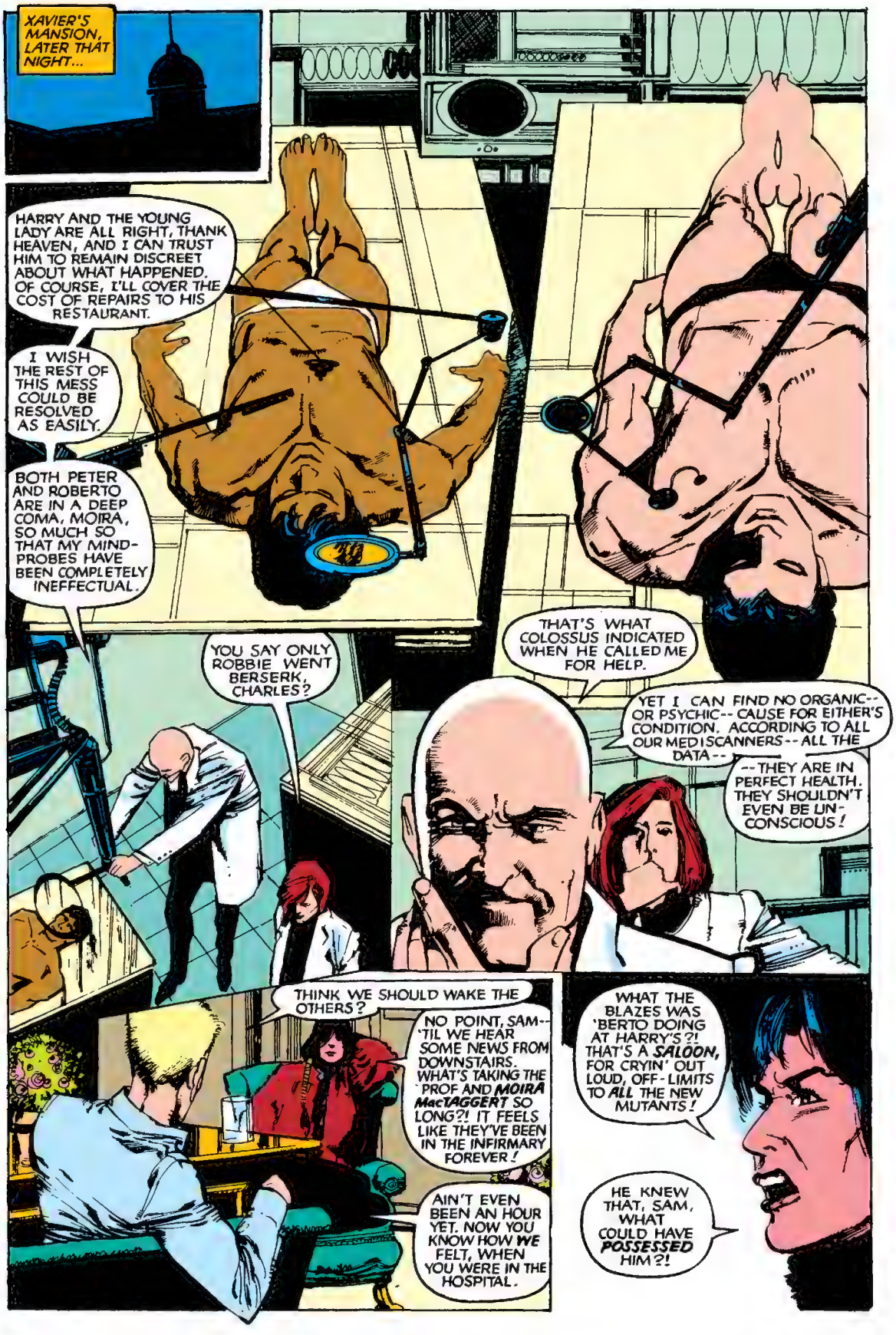
I CONCUR.
I WONDER IF THEY WERE EVEN NATIVE TO OUR PLANET-- OR OUR VERY DIMENSION. LET ME SHOW--

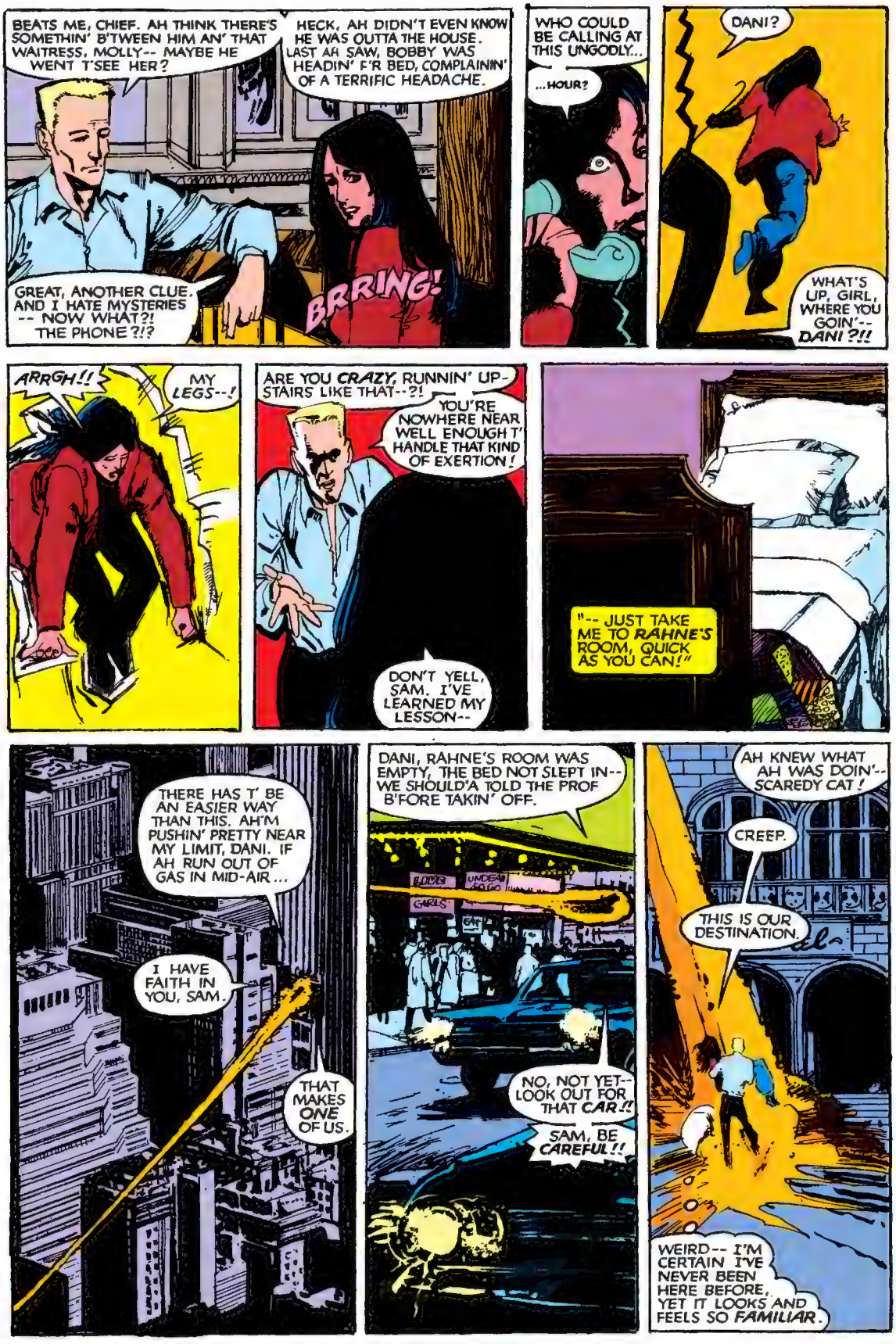
YIEARRGKH!
MAGNETO!
I WARNED YOU! YOUR BODY'S STILL INCAPABLE OF HANDLING THE STRESSES IMPOSED ON IT WHENEVER YOU USE YOUR POWERS!

LET ME--
--OWWMH!
AWAY, GIRL!
I NEED NO HELP, ESPECIALLY FROM A... HUMAN!

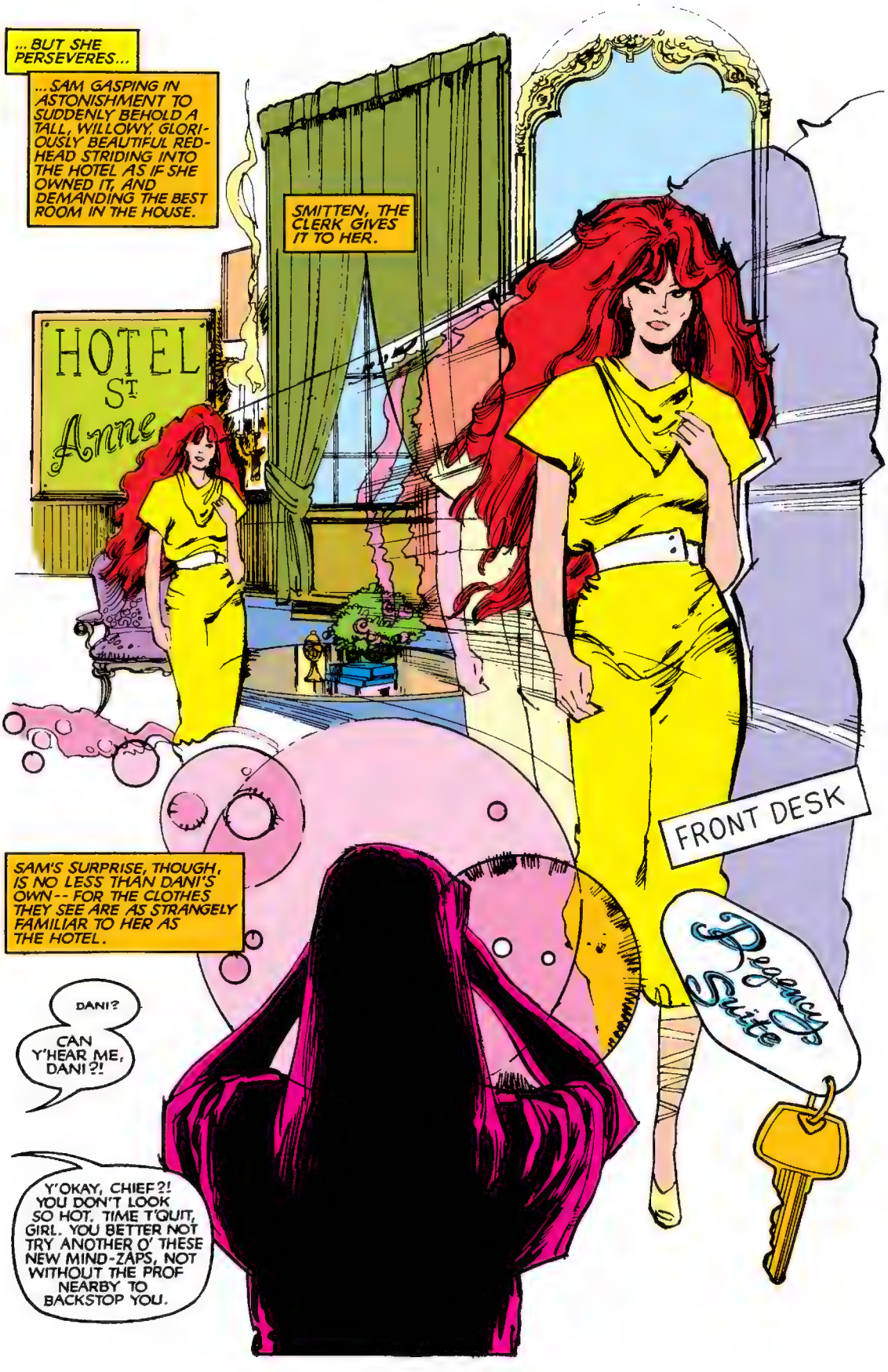

BULL!
IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS LOWLY HUMAN, BUSTER, YOU'D BE SHARK MEAT! YOU OWE ME YOUR LIFE!

BUT YOU WON'T ADMIT THAT, WILL YOU?! THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOVE EMOTIONS. FEELING FEAR, OR GRATITUDE -- OR ANYTHING -- MIGHT REVEAL THAT, AT HEART, FOR ALL YOUR POSTURING...
...MAGNETO IS STILL REALLY ONLY HUMAN.

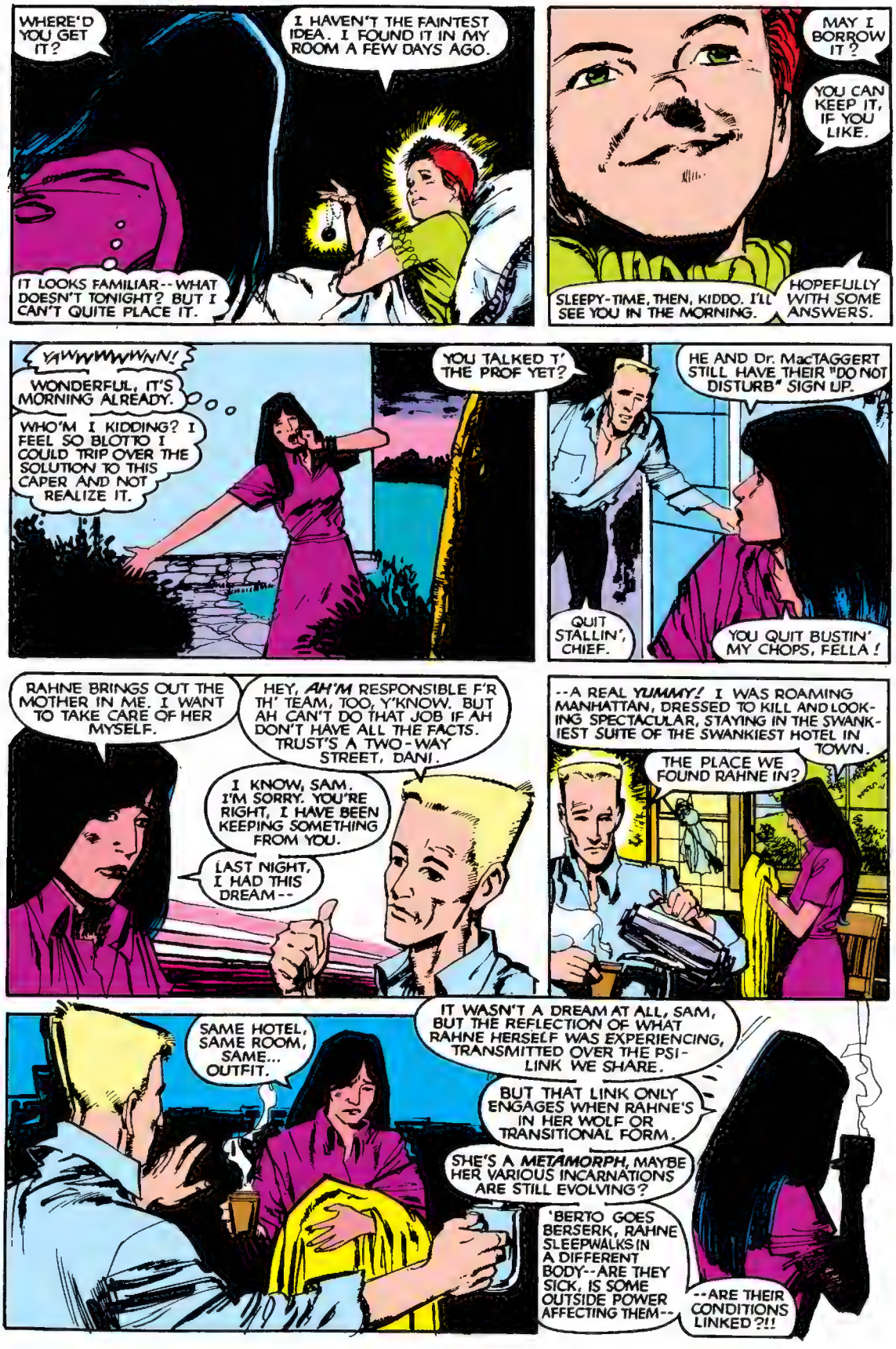

XAVIER'S MANSION, LATER THAT NIGHT...
HARRY AND THE YOUNG LADY ARE ALL RIGHT, THANK HEAVEN, AND I CAN TRUST HIM TO REMAIN DISCREET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. OF COURSE, I'LL COVER THE COST OF REPAIRS TO HIS RESTAURANT.
I WISH THE REST OF THIS MESS COULD BE RESOLVED AS EASILY.
BOTH PETER AND ROBERTO ARE IN A DEEP COMA, MOIRA, SO MUCH SO THAT MY MIND-PROBES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY INEFFECTUAL.
YOU SAY ONLY ROBBIE WENT BERSERK, CHARLES?
THAT'S WHAT COLOSSUS INDICATED WHEN HE CALLED ME FOR HELP.
YET I CAN FIND NO ORGANIC--OR PSYCHIC--CAUSE FOR EITHER'S CONDITION. ACCORDING TO ALL OUR MEDISCANNERS--ALL THE DATA--
--THEY ARE IN PERFECT HEALTH. THEY SHOULDN'T EVEN BE UN-CONSCIOUS!
THINK WE SHOULD WAKE THE OTHERS?
NO POINT, SAM--'TIL WE HEAR SOME NEWS FROM DOWNSTAIRS. WHAT'S TAKING THE PROF AND MOIRA MacTAGGERT SO LONG?! IT FEELS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN IN THE INFIRMARY FOREVER!
AIN'T EVEN BEEN AN HOUR YET. NOW YOU KNOW HOW WE FELT, WHEN YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL.
WHAT THE BLAZES WAS 'BERTO DOING AT HARRY'S?! THAT'S A SALOON, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, OFF-LIMITS TO ALL THE NEW MUTANTS!
HE KNEW THAT, SAM, WHAT COULD HAVE POSSESSED HIM?!

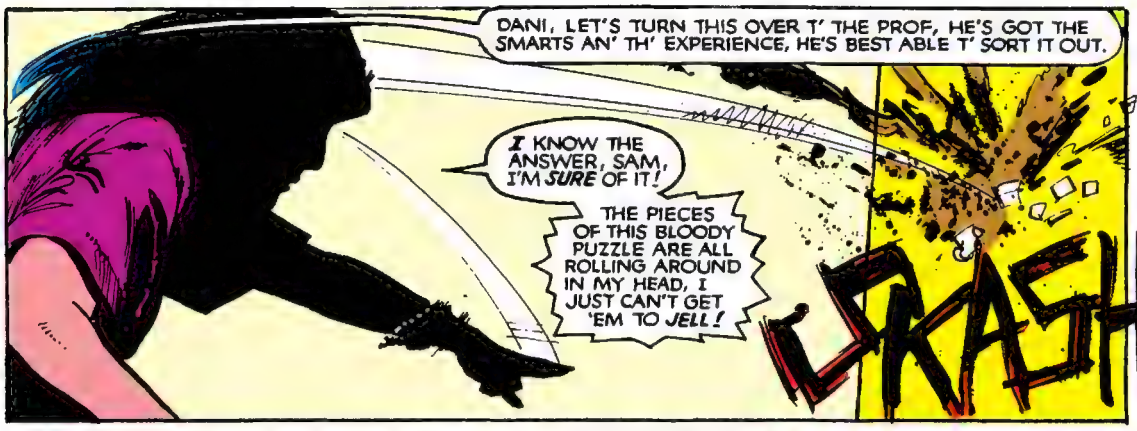

BEATS ME, CHIEF. AH THINK THERE'S SOMETHIN' B'TWEEN HIM AN' THAT WAITRESS, MOLLY-- MAYBE HE WENT T'SEE HER?
HECK, AH DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS OUTTA THE HOUSE. LAST AH SAW, BOBBY WAS HEADIN' F'R BED, COMPLAININ' OF A TERRIFIC HEADACHE.
GREAT, ANOTHER CLUE. AND I HATE MYSTERIES -- NOW WHAT?! THE PHONE?!?
BRRING!
WHO COULD BE CALLING AT THIS UNGODLY...
...HOUR?
DANI?
WHAT'S UP, GIRL, WHERE YOU GOIN'-- DANI?!!
ARRGH!!
MY LEGS--!
ARE YOU CRAZY, RUNNIN' UP-STAIRS LIKE THAT--?!
YOU'RE NOWHERE NEAR WELL ENOUGH T' HANDLE THAT KIND OF EXERTION!
DON'T YELL, SAM. I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON--
"-- JUST TAKE ME TO RAHNE'S ROOM, QUICK AS YOU CAN!"
THERE HAS T' BE AN EASIER WAY THAN THIS. AH'M PUSHIN' PRETTY NEAR MY LIMIT, DANI. IF AH RUN OUT OF GAS IN MID-AIR...
I HAVE FAITH IN YOU, SAM.
THAT MAKES ONE OF US.
DANI, RAHNE'S ROOM WAS EMPTY, THE BED NOT SLEPT IN-- WE SHOULD'A TOLD THE PROF B'FORE TAKIN' OFF.
LOVES
UNDEAD DOGS
GARLS
EAT
NO, NOT YET-- LOOK OUT FOR THAT CAR!!
SAM, BE CAREFUL!!
AH KNEW WHAT AH WAS DOIN'-- SCAREDY CAT!
CREEP.
THIS IS OUR DESTINATION.
WEIRD-- I'M CERTAIN I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE, YET IT LOOKS AND FEELS SO FAMILIAR.

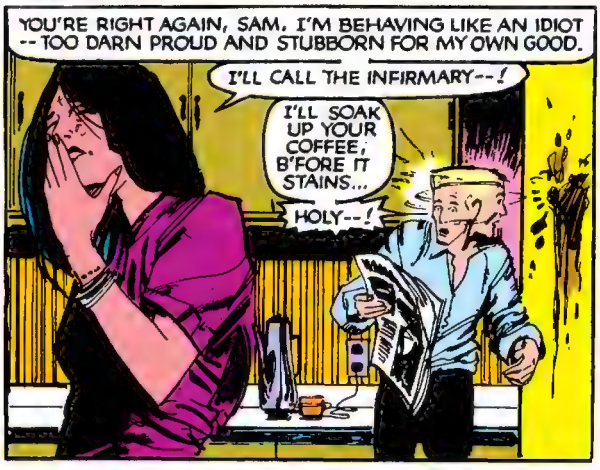
DANI, WE AIN'T DRESSED FOR THIS RITZY A PLACE.
TRUST ME.
THE DESK CLERK'S INITIAL REACTION IS TO SUMMON SECURITY AND HAVE THESE TWO SCRUFFY-LOOKING TEENAGERS THROWN OUT.
BUT BEFORE THAT THOUGHT IS FULLY FORMULATED, DANI REACHES INTO HIS MIND...
... TO FIND HIS IMAGE OF THE IDEAL GUEST. THEN, SHE MANIFESTS A REAL-AS-LIFE REPRESENTATION OF IT...
...AND CLOAKS HERSELF AND SAM WITH THAT ILLUSION.
ELEVATORS, SAM-- PRONTO!
WHERE'RE WE GOIN', DANI, WHAT'D YOU DO?!
EXTRAPOLATION OF MY... POWERS... TAUGHT ME BY PROFESSOR X. THE TRICK IS TO LOCK INTO SPECIFIC THOUGHTS...
...RATHER THAN GENERAL EMOTIONAL STATES, LIKE I USED TO.
CUTE TRICK.
WHICH FLOOR?
PENTHOUSE-- REGENCY SUITE. THAT'S WHERE SHE SAID SHE WAS.
THIS STUNT TAKES A LOT OUT OF ME-- I HAVEN'T YET BUILT UP THOSE PSYCHIC MUSCLES.
TAKE IT EASY, THEN.
CAN'T. I PULLED THE CLERK'S MEMORY OF THE PERSON HE CHECKED INTO THE REGENCY OUT OF HIS MIND.
I HAVE TO TRY TO REPLAY IT.
SHE CAN'T HELP A CRY OF PAIN AS THIS NEW EFFORT ENCIRCLES HER SKULL WITH WHITE-HOT BANDS OF BARBED WIRE. HER BONES SEEM TO TWIST OUT OF SHAPE, HER HEAD FEELS READY TO EXPLODE. IT'S ALMOST MORE THAN SHE CAN BEAR...

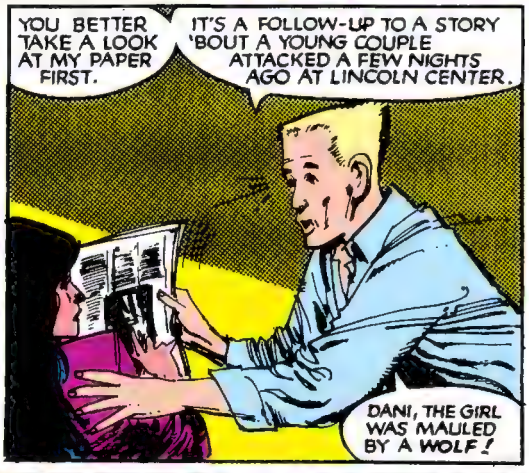

...BUT SHE PERSEVERES...
...SAM GASPING IN ASTONISHMENT TO SUDDENLY BEHOLD A TALL, WILLOWY, GLORIOUSLY BEAUTIFUL REDHEAD STRIDING INTO THE HOTEL AS IF SHE OWNED IT, AND DEMANDING THE BEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE.
SMITTEN, THE CLERK GIVES IT TO HER.
HOTEL St. Anne
FRONT DESK
Regency Suite
SAM'S SURPRISE, THOUGH, IS NO LESS THAN DANI'S OWN -- FOR THE CLOTHES THEY SEE ARE AS STRANGELY FAMILIAR TO HER AS THE HOTEL.
DANI?
CAN Y'HEAR ME, DANI?!
Y'OKAY, CHIEF?! YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT. TIME T'QUIT, GIRL. YOU BETTER NOT TRY ANOTHER O' THESE NEW MIND-ZAPS, NOT WITHOUT THE PROF NEARBY TO BACKSTOP YOU.

NOT T' WORRY, I'M ALL DONE.
RECOGNIZE THE WOMAN?
NOPE. WAS AH S'POSED TO?
WHEN SHE ANSWERS, DANI, WHAT'LL WE SAY?
WE'LL IMPROVISE.
NOK NOK NOK
DANI?
HI, RAHNEY!
≥?!?≤
OH, I'M SO HAPPY T' SEE YOU, I'VE BEEN SO ALONE, SO AFRAID!
CRUMBS, THIS ROOM'S BIGGER'N MY FOLKS' WHOLE PLACE!
I DINNA KNOW HOW I CAME T' BE HERE, OR GOT THESE CLOTHES--HOW COULD I'VE WORN SUCH THINGS, DANI? WHAT MUST PEOPLE HA' THOUGHT WHEN THEY SAW ME?!
DANI, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS SAYIN' GOOD-NIGHT T' YOU AN' GOIN' T' BED! WHAT HAPPENED T' ME?!!
SAM, I HATE TO ASK, BUT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH...
...TO CARRY US BOTH HOME?
AND SO...
AM I CRAZY?
I WISH I KNEW, FIRETOP. BUT I SURE MEAN TO FIND OUT.
RAHNE, WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR BUREAU?
WOW!
VERY LOVELY!

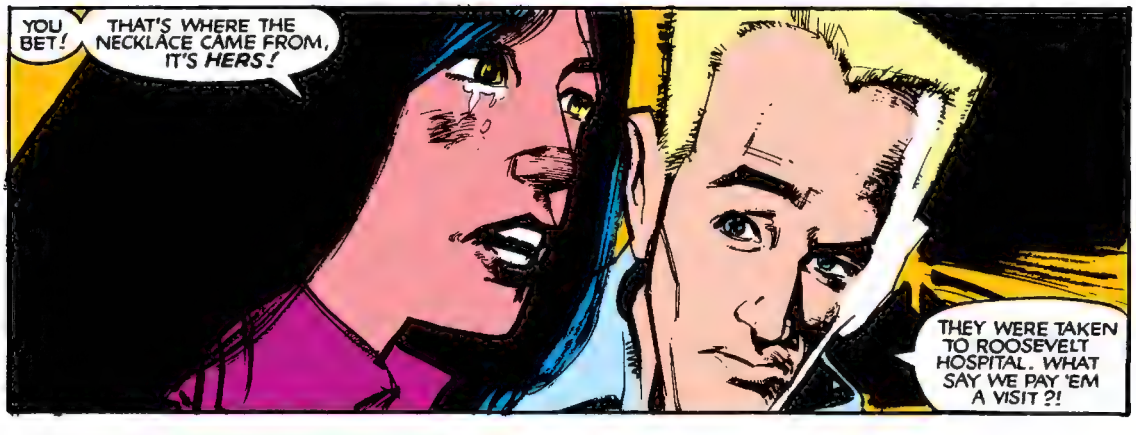

WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA. I FOUND IT IN MY ROOM A FEW DAYS AGO.
IT LOOKS FAMILIAR--WHAT DOESN'T TONIGHT? BUT I CAN'T QUITE PLACE IT.
MAY I BORROW IT?
YOU CAN KEEP IT, IF YOU LIKE.
SLEEPY-TIME, THEN, KIDDO. I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
HOPEFULLY WITH SOME ANSWERS.
YAWWWWWN!
WONDERFUL, IT'S MORNING ALREADY.
WHO'M I KIDDING? I FEEL SO BLOTTO I COULD TRIP OVER THE SOLUTION TO THIS CAPER AND NOT REALIZE IT.
YOU TALKED T' THE PROF YET?
HE AND Dr. MacTAGGERT STILL HAVE THEIR "DO NOT DISTURB" SIGN UP.
QUIT STALLIN', CHIEF.
YOU QUIT BUSTIN' MY CHOPS, FELLA!
RAHNE BRINGS OUT THE MOTHER IN ME. I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF HER MYSELF.
HEY, AH'M RESPONSIBLE F'R TH' TEAM, TOO, Y'KNOW. BUT AH CAN'T DO THAT JOB IF AH DON'T HAVE ALL THE FACTS. TRUST'S A TWO-WAY STREET, DANI.
I KNOW, SAM. I'M SORRY. YOU'RE RIGHT, I HAVE BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING FROM YOU.
LAST NIGHT, I HAD THIS DREAM--
--A REAL YUMMY! I WAS ROAMING MANHATTAN, DRESSED TO KILL AND LOOKING SPECTACULAR, STAYING IN THE SWANKIEST SUITE OF THE SWANKIEST HOTEL IN TOWN.
THE PLACE WE FOUND RAHNE IN?
SAME HOTEL, SAME ROOM, SAME... OUTFIT.
IT WASN'T A DREAM AT ALL, SAM, BUT THE REFLECTION OF WHAT RAHNE HERSELF WAS EXPERIENCING, TRANSMITTED OVER THE PSI-LINK WE SHARE.
BUT THAT LINK ONLY ENGAGES WHEN RAHNE'S IN HER WOLF OR TRANSITIONAL FORM.
SHE'S A METAMORPH, MAYBE HER VARIOUS INCARNATIONS ARE STILL EVOLVING?
'BERTO GOES BERSERK, RAHNE SLEEPWALKS IN A DIFFERENT BODY--ARE THEY SICK, IS SOME OUTSIDE POWER AFFECTING THEM--
--ARE THEIR CONDITIONS LINKED?!!


DANI, LET'S TURN THIS OVER T' THE PROF, HE'S GOT THE SMARTS AN' TH' EXPERIENCE, HE'S BEST ABLE T' SORT IT OUT.
I KNOW THE ANSWER, SAM, I'M SURE OF IT!
THE PIECES OF THIS BLOODY PUZZLE ARE ALL ROLLING AROUND IN MY HEAD, I JUST CAN'T GET 'EM TO JELL!
CRASH

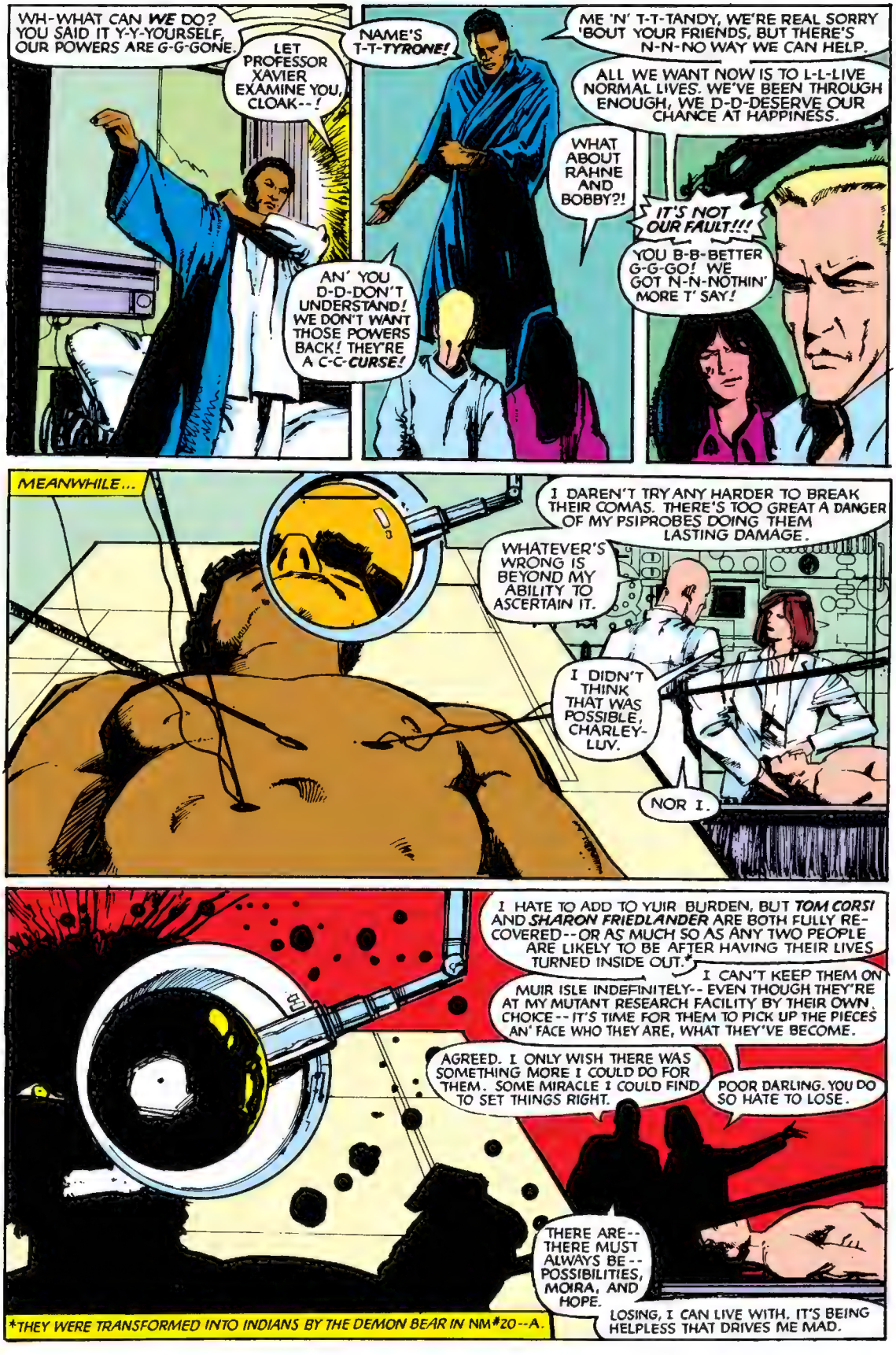

YOU'RE RIGHT AGAIN, SAM. I'M BEHAVING LIKE AN IDIOT -- TOO DARN PROUD AND STUBBORN FOR MY OWN GOOD.
I'LL CALL THE INFIRMARY--!
I'LL SOAK UP YOUR COFFEE, B'FORE IT STAINS...
HOLY--!

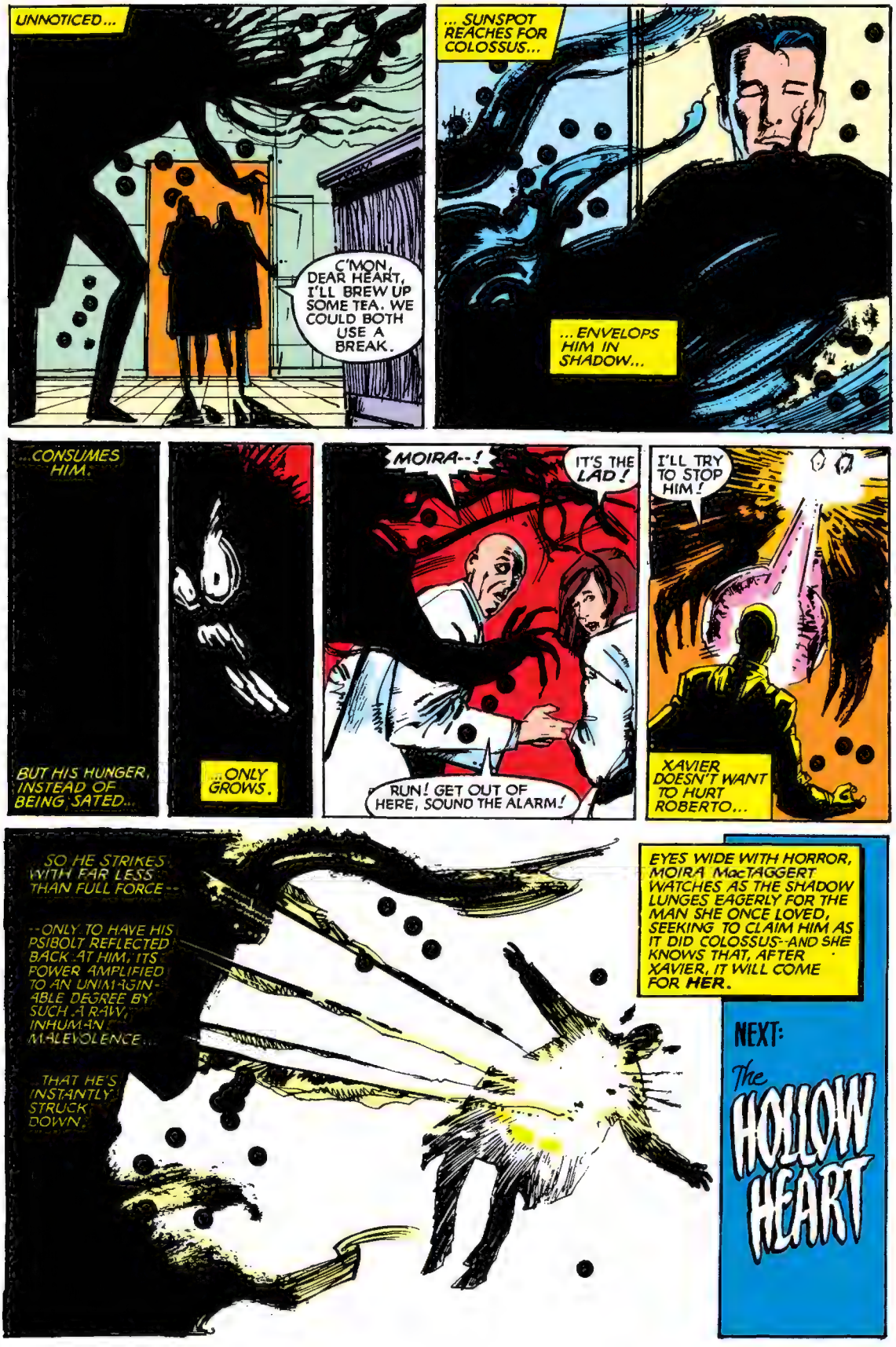

YOU BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT MY PAPER FIRST.
IT'S A FOLLOW-UP TO A STORY 'BOUT A YOUNG COUPLE ATTACKED A FEW NIGHTS AGO AT LINCOLN CENTER.
DANI, THE GIRL WAS MAULED BY A WOLF!

WITNESSES SAY HER THROAT WAS TORN OUT, AN' THE GUY WITH HER RIPPED UP PRETTY BAD. BUT WHEN THE PARAMEDICS ARRIVED, NEITHER HAD A MARK ON 'EM. ALL THEY WERE SUFFERING FROM WAS SEVERE SHOCK. NO TRACE WAS FOUND OF THE WOLF AN' IT AIN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE.
HERE'S A PHOTOGRAPH OF 'EM. DANI, R'MEMBER LAST SUMMER--?!


YOU BET!
THAT'S WHERE THE NECKLACE CAME FROM. IT'S HERS!
THEY WERE TAKEN TO ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL. WHAT SAY WE PAY 'EM A VISIT?!

NAMES ON THE DOOR READ TYRONE JOHNSON AND TANDY BOWEN.
DO WE USE THOSE, OR CALL YOU CLOAK AND DAGGER?!
YOU HAVE US AT A DISADVANTAGE, MISS.
YEAH! WHO'RE Y-Y-YOU?!
DANI MOONSTAR -- OF THE NEW MUTANTS.
HERE. I BELIEVE THIS BELONGS TO YOU.
MY NECKLACE!
HOW'D YOU G-G-GET THAT?!
ONE OF OUR TEAMMATES IS A WEREWOLF. SHE--AND ANOTHER MUTANT, SUNSPOT--WERE INJECTED WITH THE SAME DRUG...
...THAT ORIGINALLY CREATED YOU.
AS A RESULT, THEY BECAME MONSTROUS AVATARS OF THEMSELVES.*
I REMEMBER! BUT WE USED OUR OWN POWERS TO CLEANSE THE INFECTION FROM THEIR SYSTEMS!
*MTU ANNUAL #6 -- AnnN.
DIDN'T WORK, LADY.
IN FACT, SEEMS T' ME LIKE THE REVERSE IS TRUE -- SOMEHOW, THE KIDS'VE SWIPED YOUR ABILITIES.
WHAT D-D-DO YOU WANT F-F-FROM US?!
AIN'T THAT OBVIOUS? YOUR HELP IN CURIN' OUR FRIENDS.


WH-WHAT CAN WE DO? YOU SAID IT Y-Y-YOURSELF, OUR POWERS ARE G-G-GONE.
LET PROFESSOR XAVIER EXAMINE YOU, CLOAK--!
NAME'S T-T-TYRONE!
AN' YOU D-D-DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE DON'T WANT THOSE POWERS BACK! THEY'RE A C-C-CURSE!
ME 'N' T-T-TANDY, WE'RE REAL SORRY 'BOUT YOUR FRIENDS, BUT THERE'S N-N-NO WAY WE CAN HELP.
ALL WE WANT NOW IS TO L-L-LIVE NORMAL LIVES. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH, WE D-D-DESERVE OUR CHANCE AT HAPPINESS.
WHAT ABOUT RAHNE AND BOBBY?!
IT'S NOT OUR FAULT!!!
YOU B-B-BETTER G-G-GO! WE GOT N-N-NOTHIN' MORE T' SAY!
MEANWHILE...
I DAREN'T TRY ANY HARDER TO BREAK THEIR COMAS. THERE'S TOO GREAT A DANGER OF MY PSIPROBES DOING THEM LASTING DAMAGE.
WHATEVER'S WRONG IS BEYOND MY ABILITY TO ASCERTAIN IT.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE, CHARLEY-LUV.
NOR I.
I HATE TO ADD TO YUIR BURDEN, BUT TOM CORSI AND SHARON FRIEDLANDER ARE BOTH FULLY RE-COVERED--OR AS MUCH SO AS ANY TWO PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO BE AFTER HAVING THEIR LIVES TURNED INSIDE OUT.*
I CAN'T KEEP THEM ON MUIR ISLE INDEFINITELY--EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE AT MY MUTANT RESEARCH FACILITY BY THEIR OWN CHOICE--IT'S TIME FOR THEM TO PICK UP THE PIECES AN' FACE WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY'VE BECOME.
AGREED. I ONLY WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE I COULD DO FOR THEM. SOME MIRACLE I COULD FIND TO SET THINGS RIGHT.
POOR DARLING. YOU DO SO HATE TO LOSE.
THERE ARE--THERE MUST ALWAYS BE--POSSIBILITIES, MOIRA, AND HOPE.
LOSING, I CAN LIVE WITH. IT'S BEING HELPLESS THAT DRIVES ME MAD.
*THEY WERE TRANSFORMED INTO INDIANS BY THE DEMON BEAR IN NM#20--A.


UNNOTICED...
C'MON, DEAR HEART, I'LL BREW UP SOME TEA. WE COULD BOTH USE A BREAK.
... SUNSPOT REACHES FOR COLOSSUS...
... ENVELOPS HIM IN SHADOW...
...CONSUMES HIM.
BUT HIS HUNGER, INSTEAD OF BEING SATED...
...ONLY GROWS.
MOIRA--!
IT'S THE LAD!
RUN! GET OUT OF HERE, SOUND THE ALARM!
I'LL TRY TO STOP HIM!
XAVIER DOESN'T WANT TO HURT ROBERTO...
SO HE STRIKES WITH FAR LESS THAN FULL FORCE--
--ONLY TO HAVE HIS PSIBOLT REFLECTED BACK AT HIM, ITS POWER AMPLIFIED TO AN UNIMAGINABLE DEGREE BY SUCH A RAW, INHUMAN MALEVOLENCE...
...THAT HE'S INSTANTLY STRUCK DOWN.
EYES WIDE WITH HORROR, MOIRA MacTAGGERT WATCHES AS THE SHADOW LUNGES EAGERLY FOR THE MAN SHE ONCE LOVED, SEEKING TO CLAIM HIM AS IT DID COLOSSUS--AND SHE KNOWS THAT, AFTER XAVIER, IT WILL COME FOR HER.
NEXT:
The HOLLOW HEART

Bullpen Bulletins

I'M STILL STANDIN' . . .

Better than I ever did! And that's surprising, considering that I'm just back from the summer convention circuit, which is fun, but, nonetheless, will wear down even a large economy-size Editor in Chief, like myself. After three weeks on the road, the ~~Wretched Mess~~ Ol' Bullpen looks pretty good.

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN!

At the splendiferous CHICAGO COMICON, I met *Colleen Doran*, the beautiful, talented and diabolically clever artist who illustrates *A Distant Soil*, published by Warp Graphics, the same charming people who bring you *Elfquest*. Noticing the rather large number of good-looking guys on the Marvel creative staff, she suggested that on this page we run a *Marvel Hunk of the Month* feature. She suggested John Romita, Jr. (the *X-Men* penciler), Bill Sienkiewicz (the *New Mutants* artist), Carl Potts (Editor of *Doctor Strange*, and other stuff), and a few others for openers. Well, I'm game, if you ladies out there demand it. Whattaya say?

I'll be waiting to hear from you female readers about this idea. It seems crazy to me, but . . .

One thing though — I drew the line at Colleen's other suggestion. I absolutely *refuse* to run a *Win a Dream Date With Bob Layton* (radio-active mutant writer./ artist) *Contest*. Bob's a handsome guy, a terrific human being, and a close friend — but think how embarrassing it would be when he took the "lucky" winner to the movies and she found out that he glows in the dark.

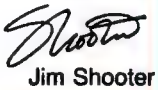
PENNIES FROM HEAVEN!

Ever have to make a phone call — a really urgent one — race to a pay phone, and discover that you don't have any change? It happened to me in Chicago. Fortunately, DC Comics Editor Julius Schwartz happened by and contributed two quarters to solve my problem. Now he refuses to let me pay him back so he can tell everyone that I'm "forever in his debt." Having worked for Julie briefly back in the early 1970's, and having learned much from his legendary self at that time, I already *was* forever in his debt. Talk about overkill.

WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

Next month. And by the way, thanks for making *Marvel Super Heroes Secret Wars* the most popular comics series in the last quarter century.

Sincerely,



Jim Shooter

HYPE BOX

POWER PACK #6 — The smash sensation of the comics world breaks into the Marvel Universe! Join Energizer, Gee, Lightspeed and Mass Master as they run headlong into Dragon Man, Cloak and Dagger, and your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! You're in for a front row seat, courtesy of LOUISE SIMONSON, JUNE BRIGMAN, and BOB WIACEK!

DAREDEVIL #214 — It's the end of the Micah Synn saga, and possibly of Daredevil himself! And what will be the startling effect upon those close to Matt Murdoch? You must read "The Crumbling!" Story by DENNY O'NEIL. Art by DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI.

THING #19 — John Byrne wrote a story that was just too big to appear all in this single issue, so it'll be continued this same month in FANTASTIC FOUR #274! That's right! You'll see the Thing appear in the pages of the FF for the first time since before the SECRET WARS began! "Monster Mash" is drawn by RON WILSON and JOE SINNOTT in THE THING, followed with art by JOHN BYRNE and AL GORDON in FANTASTIC FOUR! The Marvel Magic goes on!

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THE THING #19 — See Hype Box.**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #214 — See Hype Box.**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #23**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #35**
- ☐ **MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **RED SONJA #5**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #9**
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #26**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #260**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #301**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #25**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #6 — See Hype Box.**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #4**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #18**
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **CONAN THE DESTROYER (Limited Series) #1** — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the second hit Conan movie!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #1** — The Mutants meet a rock star named Lila Cheney, who's out to steal the Earth and Cannonball's heart.
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #303**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #251**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #166**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #171** — Reprinting "Man on a Rampage" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man #32*.
- ☐ **X-MEN #189**
- ☐ **ROM #62**
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #113**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #31**
- ☐ **QUESTPROBE (Limited Series) #2** — Marvel's computer game comic book returns with *Spider-Man* and *Mysterio*!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #274**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #149** — Featuring *Spider-Man* and *Cannonball*.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #190**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #98**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #139**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #91**
- ☐ **THOR #351**
- ☐ **STARRIORS (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **DR. WHO #4**

EPIC COMICS

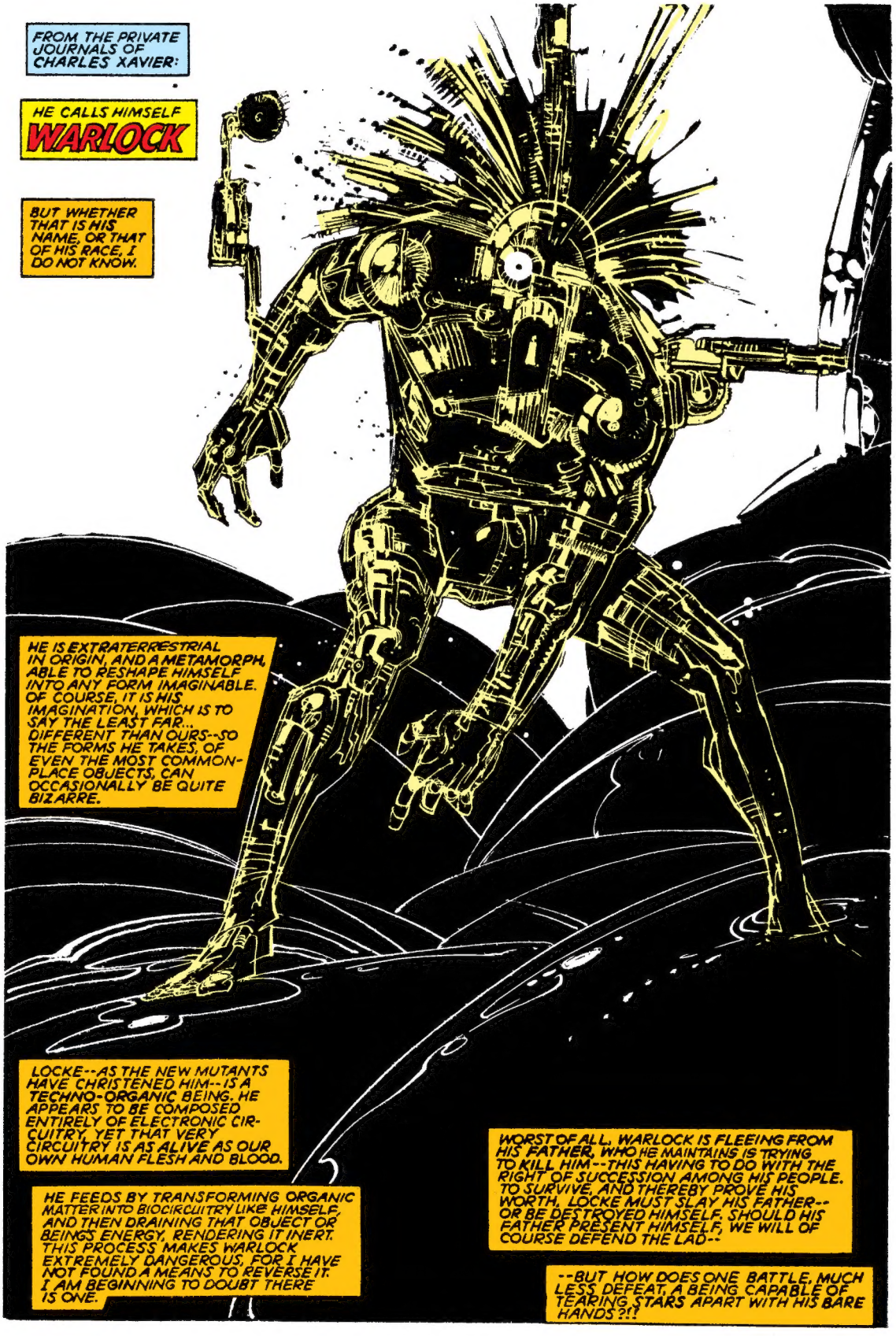
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #27**
- ☐ **CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #15**
- ☐ **VOID INDIGO #1** — A stunning new series that takes you beyond the Graphic Novel!
- ☐ **COYOTE #9**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #107**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #18**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #22**

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **#13: STARSTRUCK** — The Off-Broadway science fiction smash by ELAINE LEE becomes Marvel's 13th Graphic Novel, with art by MIKE KALUTA!


FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNALS OF CHARLES XAVIER:
HE CALLS HIMSELF WARLOCK
BUT WHETHER THAT IS HIS NAME, OR THAT OF HIS RACE, I DO NOT KNOW.
HE IS EXTRATERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN, AND A METAMORPH, ABLE TO RESHAPE HIMSELF INTO ANY FORM IMAGINABLE. OF COURSE, IT IS HIS IMAGINATION, WHICH IS TO SAY THE LEAST FAR... DIFFERENT THAN OURS--SO THE FORMS HE TAKES, OF EVEN THE MOST COMMONPLACE OBJECTS, CAN OCCASIONALLY BE QUITE BIZARRE.
LOCKE--AS THE NEW MUTANTS HAVE CHRISTENED HIM--IS A TECHNO-ORGANIC BEING. HE APPEARS TO BE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF ELECTRONIC CIRCUITRY, YET THAT VERY CIRCUITRY IS AS ALIVE AS OUR OWN HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD.
HE FEEDS BY TRANSFORMING ORGANIC MATTER INTO BIOCIRCUITRY LIKE HIMSELF, AND THEN DRAINING THAT OBJECT OR BEINGS ENERGY, RENDERING IT INERT. THIS PROCESS MAKES WARLOCK EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, FOR I HAVE NOT FOUND A MEANS TO REVERSE IT. I AM BEGINNING TO DOUBT THERE IS ONE.
WORST OF ALL, WARLOCK IS FLEEING FROM HIS FATHER, WHO HE MAINTAINS IS TRYING TO KILL HIM--THIS HAVING TO DO WITH THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION AMONG HIS PEOPLE. TO SURVIVE, AND THEREBY PROVE HIS WORTH, LOCKE MUST SLAY HIS FATHER--OR BE DESTROYED HIMSELF. SHOULD HIS FATHER PRESENT HIMSELF, WE WILL OF COURSE DEFEND THE LAD--
--BUT HOW DOES ONE BATTLE, MUCH LESS DEFEAT, A BEING CAPABLE OF TEARING STARS APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS?!!

REPORT CARD

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
PETER SANDERSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Dear Mutants:

All the wonders you've weaved in just sixteen short issues! I've been with TNM from the graphic novel and already I find myself liking it more often than (dare I say it) THE X-MEN. All of the new people are fresh and unique, and getting better with each issue.

I really must applaud your adding Illyana to the fold. She, as you may have guessed, is by far my favorite. Of all she has the most potential as well as being the most interesting of all. The four issue mini-series starring her and Storm was the best work to come out in a long time. There is still so much we don't know about the extent of her abilities. The knowledge she learned from Belasco could make her one of the most potent of all Marvel's characters and now we have just the place to find out.

Amara is still another newcomer whose abilities are rather vague. Her power is obvious, but what is its extent? This issue, she seems to have better control over her powers, but she still leaves small mountains and lava everywhere she uses them, not to mention the effect all her earth shifting must have on the geological stability of that particular area.

Sunspot is unique. Here we have a super-strong character who doesn't have bullets bouncing off his chest. However, I do wonder how he can smash walls and boulders without breaking his hands. Though you've pointed out he isn't invulnerable, he must be to some extent or he'd be hospitalized after each mission. His personality is very entertaining, though. His charming the girls at every chance seems to fit him to a tee.

Dani seems rather weak. Using her power is obviously extremely unnerving, making her usefulness rather limited, other than her talent for leadership.

Sam confuses me. From the start, we've seen a rather shy person, but now we've seen a complete turnaround. Granted his hanging around the others would change him somewhat, but now he seems bold and argumentative. His power is rather formidable and once he learns to maneuver faster, he will be much better.

Rahne is another who seems to change a lot. She is a God-fearing person but quick to judge others when angry, showing the type of immaturity a girl her age would have. These kids ARE kids.

One question I would like answered — remember way back when there was another character in the group? Yes, I mean that apparently forgotten character named Karma. I'd like to see her again.

Keith Laurenti
3717 S.W. 5th Pl
Cape Coral, Florida 33914

Karma? Are you *sure* you want to know what she's been up to? You'll see in the spring of next year. Don't say we didn't warn you!

Dear Editors:

. . . going to the rescue by *bus*? A novel approach.

Michael Kanterovich
59 Jewett Lane / p.o. Box 51
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Well, they can't all fly and they're too young to drive.

Dear Ann,

Congratulations on taking over the reins of THE NEW MUTANTS. I'm sure you'll do a great job here, as previously shown on the other titles you've worked on.

"Getaway" was the kind of story a reader would love to see anywhere. It was realistic to see the dissension among the Hellions since Empath is definitely the kind of person I would hate to rely on. It was also nice to see the Hellions' reaction when they found out that the Mutants were being forced to join. I also would hate to work with anyone who didn't want to work with me. Of course, the real shock of the story was to find that Illyana (by the way, how do you pronounce that?) and her light circles travel via Limbo. This means that they travel through time. I guess that will put an end to the overuse of her power. It does open a world of potential. When in combat, she could wait to see how her opponent would strike, and then move through space and time and confront that opponent before the strike.

The gap between Kitty and the New Mutants seems to be closing up. Good. I thought it was kinda silly to see it last as long as it has. Since their ages are so close, I expect to see Kitty working more and more closely with the New Mutants. Catseye is a puzzle. She seems to be closely related to Rahne, power-wise. How come in her humanoid form, she doesn't speak at all, and when she speaks in her feline form, it's in broken English? Why was Tarot startled when the card of the Lovers popped out of her deck? Is she leaning towards the Mutants? Is she possibly *in love* with one of them? Will we ever *really* know?

Eric Jones
11-8 Ross Ade
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906

Catseye speaks the way she does because she only learned human speech — much less English — in the last year. She's more comfortable in her "fur-form" because that's the way she lived for most of her young life; she never knew she even *had* a human form until the White Queen taught her. As for Tarot — her feelings and her future — only the cards know for sure. But don't despair, Eric. We won't leave you in suspense too long. Finally (it's pronounced lil-ee-anna), Illyana's light circle "stepping disks" aren't quite the asset you hope they'll be because — at least at this stage of the game — there's no way she can learn how to use them, save through practice. Yet those practice sessions could land her somewhere / somewhen far from home — possibly even unable to retrace her steps — Xavier certainly has yet to figure out a way to teach her. Interesting problem, don't you think? Any suggestions on how to resolve it?

Dear People:

What can I say? You have done it to me again. You've made me feel like a blubbering idiot. Why, you may ask? NEW MUTANTS #18 is why.

You see, I had collected THE NEW MUTANTS since its inception until around issue #11. I enjoyed each issue but still found something . . . lacking. I couldn't quite pinpoint what it was. The writing was excellent, the illustration was beautiful, but still something . . .

This something finally caused me, with some hardship, to end my stint with the so-called "X-Babies."

What happened? As I was looking through an issue of THOR, an ad caught my eye. It said we weren't supposed to call them "X-Babies" anymore. Uh-oh, I thought. A lump started to rise in my throat as I looked a bit further down the ad. Bill Sienkiewicz. The thought of suicide passed quickly through my mind. You see, when I stopped collecting I also sold my issues. Smart, huh?

I prayed that NM #18 would not be what I expected it to be. I waited day and night, fingernails becoming raw and hair twisted into candyfloss. Finally, April 24 and a bit past two in the afternoon. I purchased the book without looking at it and rushed home with nerve-jangling anticipation. I opened the book and . . . collapsed in a heap of shivering jelly.

All I can say is, you people have done this to me, you people better keep Mr. Sienkiewicz drawing for a very lllooonnggg time!

Lyndon Cowles
1563 4th Street East
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Canada

Bill Sienkiewicz is one of the hottest talents in the industry. He's constantly evolving his multiple "voices," his many styles. The high point of each week is when Bill comes in with new pages — you should see the office fill up with people anxious to see his latest masterpieces! He's an artistic radical — daring, fearless and continually "pushing the envelope" — breaking new ground in comics storytelling. And he's got a vehicle — THE NEW MUTANTS — within which to do his stuff for as long as he wants. That long enough for you?

People:

You've KILLED DANIELLE? You've let the Demon Bear *KILL DANI?!?* No, no, say it isn't SO!

Dorothy Lyra Joyce
320 Hillside Avenue
Douglaston, NY 11363

She got better.

Friends:

Subplots, I love 'em. Especially in a Claremont story. NEW MUTANTS #18 really did it: aliens, bears, Rachel (it was Rachel, wasn't it?), and some of the best plotting and pacing I've seen in a long time. The Claremont / Sienkiewicz team is worth waiting for.

But even that isn't putting it strongly enough. Sienkiewicz's art here gave the bear a ménace, the girls a character, the action a quickness that we don't often see, even in good comics. Truly a joy to read. Not difficult to follow, just exciting.

We got some insight into Dani, at long last: she's a natural ally to Illyana, with her nature-affinity both similar to and antagonistic to Illyana's magics. If Illyana's innocence is tainted with her knowledge of evil, Dani's innocence has been altered by experience; she is beyond her years in courage, if not wisdom. We don't often see such heroes, particularly not in the form of a young woman, in comics.

I was particularly gripped by the shock felt by Rachel (it *is* Rachel?) when she encountered Illyana. The disorientation . . . which future is which? Which memories belong to whose past? What other worlds are touching the New Mutants — Dani's spirit world? Illyana's demonic one? The Sentinels' fascist one? The Danger Room's illusions?

Elizabeth Holden
286 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6G5 Canada

If you think Rachel had a hard time dealing with Illyana, Liz, wait'll you see her reunion with Kitty Pryde in X-MEN #192.

Dear Mutant-Makers,

Last month, you asked for reader response to the new look that began with Bill Sienkiewicz's debut in NEW MUTANTS #18. I am in such awe that I fear my own words might not suffice. It may be a bit flowery and archaic, but King Duncan said it best:

The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me: thou art so far before,
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow
To overtake thee. Would thou hadst less deserved,
That the proportion both of thanks and payment
Might have been mine! Only I have left to say,
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

Don't laugh! Sienkiewicz is exactly what this mag needed to reach its potential. Welcome, Bill, I love it! The cover of NM #18 was far and away the best yet. The interior inking style and layout lend themselves perfectly to the mood of the story. I only wish I could see some of this art on high-quality paper. It would be breathtaking!

Alison Humphrey
287 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2M6 Canada

Ask and ye shall receive, Alison. On sale soon is a full color New Mutants poster by Bill, that he calls his *Primal Scream*. And it *is* breathtaking!

Claremont,

If Danielle dies, you do, *too!*

I will personally stomp into your office, rip your lungs out through your ears, stick them up your nose, and pull them out through your butt!!

And then I'll start the real punishment!

Gabrielle deBarros
21 St. James Place
Brooklyn, New York 11205

›Whew!‹ Thanks for living, Dani.

Dear All:

Having Bill Sienkiewicz draw the innocuous antics of the New Mutants (#18) is tantamount to Michaelangelo rendering Baby Huey.

Whatever compelled Bill to petition for this assignment? His talents are sorely wasted on it.

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset St.
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509

Michaelangelo's Baby Huey? Betcha it'd be gorgeous. Characters are only the beginning, Jeff — it's what you do with them that counts. Bill loves the New Mutants as much as we do. We hope he draws them till . . . till . . . The New Mutants meet Baby Huey. Watch for it.

People:

NEW MUTANTS #18: fantastic cover! Welcome Mr. Sienkiewicz; you've certainly come aboard with a splash!

Right off the bat we have two intriguing though as yet unknown characters. One looks like Annie Lennox of the Eurythmics, the other one I can't tell — it was kind'a dark there in outer space. Future members? I'm going to enjoy watching their respective tales unfold and how they will tie in with the New Mutants.

I like the friendship that's forming between Dani and Illyana. Since Illyana is also Kitty Pryde's friend, maybe she will be a sort of go-between among the X-Men and the New Mutants. If anything, it should lessen Kitty's disdain towards the "X-Babies, as she calls them.

The psychic struggle that Dani has been going through seems to have come to a showdown. The bear must represent something, but what?! After this, Dani will become more mature in her powers and better able to control them. That is, if she pulls through. It looks as though her body has taken a nasty beating during her encounter with the bear. She *will* pull through, right? Guys, you better not let her die!

NEW MUTANTS is taking on a dark and serious tone, both in story and art. I've been with them since #1 and am really having fun watching them grow and develop. I'm anxiously awaiting the next issue.

Clara Triem
PSC Box 1490
APO Miami 34004

That initial storyline is over, Clara — we hoped you liked it — and while Rachel has left for THE X-MEN, Warlock (your mysterious alien) is here to stay. Warlock exploded out of a plot session and then exploded again out of Bill's drawing table. And if you think our zany friend is something — remember, he's just a *kid* — wait'll you see more of his *daddy*!

NEXT ISSUE: Cloak and Dagger have regained their humanity — isn't that what they've always wanted? Even if it is, what of the price — the innocent kids who've unwittingly shouldered their burden? 'Berto has already consumed Colossus; will Xavier and Moira be next? Can he be stopped? Can he and Rahne be cured? You'll learn in 30 days — along with the New Mutants and select members of the Uncanny X-MEN!

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Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...